PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

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L DATE 14-13 August 56	2. Location Bentwaters-Lakenheat	h, England	Probably Bullian
DATE-TIME GROUP Local 21200-2220 (13 Aug) ZOME:0010-0330 (14 Aug)	4. TYPE OF OBJERVATION  I Ground-Visual II Groun	d-Rader D	Possibly Balance Persibly Arresoft Persibly Arresoft
5. PHOTOS	Radar observers - Ground observers, AF pilots	ā 0	Probably Astronomical Possibly Astronomical
Total: Approx 5 hrs	Varied Var	ried o	Insult trent date for Evelvetion

#### O BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

1. On 14 August, between 2120-2220 ZI Centwaters radar reported 3 separate UFO tracks auddenly appearing and disappearing on their screens, with a 2 hr period. 2. Bentwaters station alerted BAF radar unit at Lakenneath. On 14 Aug. the RAF unit -operted objs were observed intermittantly from 0010% to 03302, going from W to 5W, apopping for 5 minutes, thence NW, disappearing place within the periods given, they From scope at 0330%.

At first glance, the 2 messages (TT Mage 301-435, 10 Aug 56 and IDD-7335, 21 Aug 56) reporting this alghting may give the impression that observations, radar, ground and air, were simu taneous. A review of detailed report IR-1-56, dtd El Aug 50, indicates that, although the observations took cannot be considered as concurrent.

# RECEIPT FOR CLASSIFIED MATERIAL RELEASED TO

19 Oct 56

TO (Name and Address of Individual, Firm or Corporation)

Dr. J. Allen Hynek Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory 50 Garden Street Cambridge 38, Massachusetta FROM (Name, Address and Orgal Code of Releasing Activity)

Commander Air Technical Intelligence Center Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

AFOIN-4E4

INSTRUCTIONS:

- RELEASING ACTIVITY Prepare form in quadruplicate and retain one copy for followup purposes. Clearly
  indicate if material is RESTRICTED DATA. Forward one copy of receipt to the AMA Inspector General and
  two copies with the material being released.
- 2. AMA INSPECTOR GENERAL Forward form to the proper authority having security cognizance of the facility.
- CONTRACTOR OR BIDDER Sign the original and return to the Releasing Activity, using complete address
  as indicated in (FROM) block above.

IDENTIFICATION NR	NR COPIES	CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION, DATE AND SUBJECT
T56-24219	original	Confidential	Memorandum for Record, 17 October 1956. subj: (C) E O L R
T56-24219-1	carbon	Confidential	Memorandum for Record, 17 October 1956, subj: (C) E O L R
T56-24219-A	original	Confidential	Letter transmitting Memorandum 1222006.s

RECEIPT IS ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE MATERIAL LISTED ABOVE. It is recognized that this material is CLASSIFIED and comes within the purview of this COMPANY'S SECURITY AGREEMENT.

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN FOR MATERIAL

DATE SIGNED

SIGHTING LETTER



Dear Sir:

Reference your UFO Study: you probably already have this item in your file, but, in case you don't, I will briefly outline it and you can contact me for full details if you want them.

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I retired (20 years service) I April 1967 from the USAF. I have placed my name, rank, and serial number at the top of the page if you want to check on my authenticity. I was an Air Traffic Controller throughout my service career and utilized radar the last 16 years in the control of Air Traffic. I won't bother listing the types and locations, although I could supply all this is needed.

I have never mentioned this incident, as I was pretty sure it is considered (or was) classified, and the only reason I feel free to give you details is because you are an official government agency.

In 1956, sometime between January and September (I can't remember the exact date or month), I was on duty as Watch Supervisor at Lakenheath RAF Station, England (a USAF base) in the Radar Air Traffic Control Center. It was the 5:00 p.m. to midnight shift. I had either four or five other controllers on my shift. I was sitting at the Supervisor's Coordinating desk and received a call on the direct line (actually, I'm not sure which line it was). Anyway, it was Sculthorpe GCA Unit calling and the radar operator asked me if we had any targets on our scopes travelling at 4,000 mph. They said they had watched a target on their scopes proceed from a point 30 or 40 miles east of Scultnerpe to a point 40 miles west of Sculthorpe. The target passed directly over Sculthorpe, England RAF Station (also an USAF Station). He said the tower reported seeing it go by and just appeared to be a blurry light. A C47 flying over the base at 5,000 feet altitude also reported seeing it as a blurred light that passed under his aircraft. No report as to actual distance below the aircraft. I immediately had all controllers start scanning the radar scopes. I had each scope set on a different range - from 10 miles to 200 miles radius of Lakenheath. At this time I did not contact anyone by telephone as I was rather skeptical of this report. We were using full MTI on our radar, which eliminated entirely all ground returns and stationary targets. There was very little or not traffic or targets on the scopes, as I recall. However, one controller noticed a stationary target on the scopes about 20 to 25 miles southwest. This was unusual as a stationary target should have been eliminated unless it was moving at a speed of at least 40 to 45 knots. And yet we could detect no movement at all. We watched this target on all the different scopes for several minutes and I called the GCA Unit at Lakenheath to see if they had this target on their scopes also. They confirmed the target was on their scope in the same geographical location. As we watched, the stationary target started moving at a speed of 400 to 600 mph in a north, northeast direction until it reached a point about 20 miles north northwest of Lakenheath. There was no slow start or build-up to this speed - it was constant from the second it started to move until it stopped.

I called and reported all the facts to this point, including Sculthorpe GCA's initial report, to the 7th Air Division Command Post at London. They in turn notified 3rd Air Force Command Post and had them hooked into the

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line. I also hooked in my local AFB Commanding Officer and my Unit (AFCS Communications Squadron) Commander on my switchboard. And there could have been others hooked in also that I was not aware of. I repeated all the facts known to this point and continued to give a detailed report on the target's movements and location. The target made several changes in location, always in a straight line, always at about 600 mph and always from a standing or stationary point to his next stop at constant speed - no build-up in speed at all - these changes in location varied from 8 miles to 20 miles in length no set pattern at any time. Time spent stationary between movements also varied from 30 or 4 minutes to 5 or 6 minutes (possibly even longer as I was busy answering questions - listening to theories, guesses, etc. that the conference line people were saying. This continued for some time. After I imagine about 30 to 45 minutes, it was decided to scramble two RAF interceptors to investigate. This was done I believe by 3rd Air Force calling the RAF and, after hearing what the score was, they scrambled one aircraft. [The second got off after as I will mention later.]

The interceptor aircraft took off from an RAF Station near London and approached Lakenheath from the southwest. Radio and radar contact was established with the RAF intercept aircraft at a point about 30 to 35 miles southwest of Lakenheath inbound to Lakenheath. On initial contact we gave the interceptor pilot all the background information on the UFO, his (the interceptor) present distance and bearing from Lakenheath, the UFO's (which was stationary at the time) distance and bearing from Lakenheath. We explained we did not know the altitude of the UFO but we could assume his altitude was above 1,500 feet and below 20,000 feet, due to the operational characteristics of the radar (CPS-5 type radar, I believe). Also we mentioned the report from the C47 over Sculthorpe that relayed the story about the light which passed below him. His altitude was 5,000 feet.

We immediately issued headings to the interceptor to guide him to the UFO. The UFO remained stationary throughout. This vectoring of the intercept aircraft continued. We continually gave the intercept aircraft his heading to the UFO and his distance from the UFO at approximately 1 to 2 mile intervals. Shortly after we told the intercept aircraft he was one-half mile from the UFO and it was twelve-o'clock from his position, he said. "Roger, Lakenheath, I've got my guns locked on him." Then he paused and said, "Where did he go? Do you still have him?" We replied, "Roger, it appeared he got behid you and he's still there. [There were now two targets; one behind the other, same speed, very close, but two separate distinct targets.

The first movement by the UFO was so swift (circling behind the interceptor). I missed it entirely, but it was seen by the other controllers. However, the fact that this had occurred was confirmed by the pilot of the interceptor. The pilot of the interceptor told us he would try to shake the UFO and would try it again. He tried everything - he climbed, dived, circled, etc., but the UFO acted like it was glued right behind him, always the same distance, very close, but we always had two distinct targets. [Note: Target resolution on our radar at the range they were from the antenna (about 10 to 30 miles, all in the southerly sectors from Lakenheath) would be between 200 and 600 feet probably. Closer than that we would have got one target from both aircraft and UFO. Most specifications say 500 feet is the minimum, but I

believe it varies and 200 to 600 feet is closer to the truth and, in addition, the tuning of the equipment, atmospheric conditions, etc., also help determine this figure.

The interceptor pilot continued to try and shake the UFO for about ten minutes (approximate - it seemed longer both to him and us). He continued to comment occasionally and we could tell from the tonal quality he was getting worried, excited and also pretty scared.

He finally said, "I'm returning to Station, Lakenheath. Let me know if he follows me. I'm getting low on petrol." The target (UFO) followed him only a short distance, as he headed south southwest, and the UFO stopped and remained stationary. We advised the interceptor that the UFO target had stopped following and was now stationary about 10 miles south of Lakenheath. He rogered this message and almost immediately the second interceptor called us on the same frequency. We replied and told him we would advise him when we had a radar target, so we could establish radar contact with his aircraft. [He was not on radar at this time, probably had just taken off and was too low for us to pick him up, or too far away - we had most of the scopes on short range, so we could watch the UFO closely on the smaller range.] The number two interceptor called the number one interceptor by name (Tom, Frank whatever his name was) and asked him, "Did you see anything?" Number one replied, "I saw something, but I'll be dammed if I know what it was." Number two said, "What happened?" Number one said, "He (or it) got behind me and I did everything I could to get behind him and I couldn't. It's the dammdest thing I've ever seen." Number one also made a remark at this time to Number two, that he had his radar locked on whatever it was for just a few seconds so there was something there that was solid. Number one then switched frequencies to his home base frequency. We gave Number 2 the location of the UFO and advised him that we still didn't have him on radar, but probably would have shortly. He delayed answering for some seconds and then finally said, "Lakenheath (Identification, aircraft call sign) - can't remember what call sign these aircraft were using. Returning home, my engine is maifunctioning." He then left our frequency.

Throughout this we kept all the agencies, 7th Air Division, 3rd Air Force, etc., advised on every aspect, every word that was said, everything.

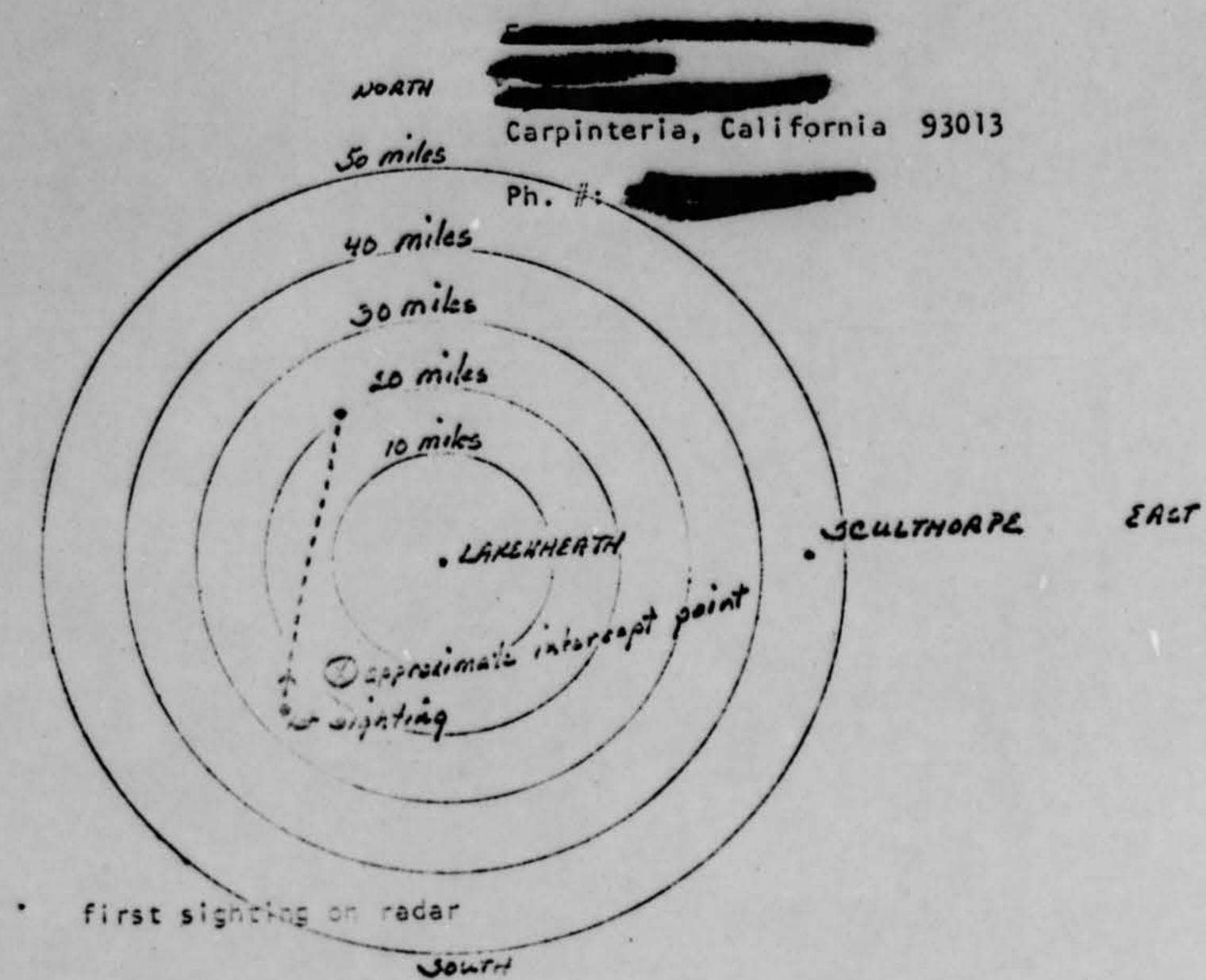
We then inquired what action they wanted to take. They had no more suggestions and finally they told us to just keep watching the target and let them know if anything else nappened. The target made a couple more short moves, we lost target outbound to the north at about 50 to 60 miles, which is normal radiation lobe of that type radar). We notified 7th Air Division Command Post and they said they'd tell everybody for us.

of my facility, and was told that unless I was contacted later for any was submitted on this or not - I heard no more about it.

All speeds in this report were calculated speeds based on time and cistance covered on radar. This speed was calculated many times that evening and although this happened quite awhile ago, the basic elements are correct.

Hope this helps in some small way to assist in your UFO investigation.

- W.



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O intercept paint by RAF interceptor - point also at which RAF pilot reported radar gunsight locked on UFO.

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Dopt. of Physics and Astrophysics 202 Woodbury Hall University of Colorado Doulder, Colorado 80301

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UNION ASSITIETY Box 9703 1125th FAG (ATIO) Wright-Patterson A FB. Ohio 26 November 1956 Dr. J. Allen Hynek Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory 60 Garden Street Cambridge 38, Massachusetts Dear Dr. Hynek: Reference is made to my letter of 20 November 1956 in which I stated that I would send you the finalized material on the Lakenheath case. Inclosed you will find AF 112 on the final investigations regarding this sighting. I am relieved to find that they carry it under an unclassified category. This, of course, helps us in both the discussion and transmittal aspects. I have included a rough plot of the three radar and one visual observations of the sightings. This should be of some help for your review and e onment. These sightings, in my opinion, cannot be considered as concurrent with respect to time. The separate report of each observer indicates three widely divergent tracks. An attempted intercept by American airplanes, which lasted for 45 minutes, produced no physical evidence of any UFO in the erea. The visual observation leads me to believe that the observer was seeing Mars. Also, there appears to have been some contact (I do not wish to use the word "collusion") between the operator of two rudar stations since they both state speed of exactly 4000 m.p.h. I feel, therefore, that our original analyses of anomalous propagation and astronomical is more or less correct. I will consider this case closed upon recoipt of your final comment, at which time I will make a compiled, final conclusion for the Air Force. a word concerning our proposed visit. As things are now it seems improbable that any plans can be made before the middle of January. Sincerely. Capit. Aregory 2 Incls

SUBJECT: Report for analysis - Ulo asports from (Inculture, Wieshaden and Lakenheath, angland 11 ON: ATOLN-414 DATE 7 HOT 56 COMMINE NEW 3 424/Cept G.T.Crecory/lto

10: AFOLD-MEL attn: Col Hoffman 1. Attached herewith is AIIR-1-56, England (Indiosure #1), containing perti-

nent information on the -akenheath-Bentwaters sighting which was reported to this Center on 13 August 1956 with a request for immediate evaluation by Headquarters USAF. It is believed this report is in response to this Center's request for additional information (Lee Inclosure /2).

- 2. On the basis of the information available at that time, it was our conclusion that the sighting was the result of anomalous propagation with the possibility of certain meteoric showers, which were prominent during that sighting date, a contributing factor.
- 3. Inasmuch as Head usrters USAF has expressed a desire for an expeditious evaluation regarding this uto sighting (Inclosure #3), it is requested that this report be reviewed, together with the original data, for the purpose of arriving at a more firm conclusion.
- 4. A rough plot of the three ruder and one visual observation indicate that the sightings cannot be considered as concurrent with respect to time. (Inclosure #4. A forty-five minute search of the area by a local intercept squadron proauced no physical evidence of any unidentified object in the sky. A
- 5. Attached for your information is an evaluation by Dr. Hynek and Dr. hipple which represents an approach to the sighting, riverily from an astronomical and astrophysical viewpoint from the main available at that time. It may be of some assistance in your over-all study of the incident.

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is al aquilance in the fact that the direction of the UFOS trivel on the radar scape was not The Three plats. In fact, there was a words devergance in the thee bearings indicated

### . 10. Continued) -

J. An amber-colored object was observed visually with 7 X 50 binoculars near the horizon towards E. SE. This object, the apparent size of a pinhead, remained in sight for approximately 1 hour.

4. Two pilots of a local AF interceptor squadron who were vectored to the area returned after a 45 minute search.

Nothing found. Both stated, however, that there was a bright star in the horizon East of Pentwaters, that could have been mistaken for a UFO by visual observers.

during this period.

#### 11. Continued

This is confirmed by the original report BOI-485, which states that the rular sightings occurred at a later time than the ground sightings. Comments, on the basis of specific aspects of each sighting: Radar: The widely divergent tracks and speeds observed on the scopes (SW to NE. E to W, SE to NW, and 60 to 4000 MPH), the sudden appearing, disappearing intermittent stopping, starting and remaining motionless; and other erratic behavior of blips is characteristic of weather returns and changing atmospheric conditions. This can often be confusing to trained operators, and aces not imply lack of capability of reporting personnel.

Visual Ground: It should be noted that the visual sighting by the control-tower thief, using 7 x 50 binoculars, was of an amber-quiored object between 10 to 40 degrees above the horizon towards the SE. The observer further stated that this object remained in sight for approximately

(CONTINUED)

- (U) Lakenheath-Bentwaters UFO Sighting - Review and Comment SUBJECT: by Dr. J. A. Hynek.
- 1. On 13 September 1956, at the Harvard Astrophysical Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Hynek and the undersigned held discussions regarding this case. All teletype messages and the various factors and aspects were treated in some detail.
- 2. Dr. Hynek was in agreement with the undersigned's comment to the SAC Commander in "ngland and Headquarters USAFE, considering the many variables and other seemingly conflicting data involved in the UFO report.
- 3. Upon receipt of this sighting, Dr. Hynek was unavailable to review this report as one of the applicable USAF consultants normally required in cases of this kind. Dr. Hynek was en route to Harvard University from the U. S. Astronomical Society Conference held in Berkley, Calif.
- 4. The following action was taken in attempt to resolve this matter to a better conclusion:
- a. Copies of all teletype messages from England were left in the custody of Dr. Hynek (deposited in safe for classified material assigned Dr. F. E. Whipple, Director of Astrophysical Observatory). A hand receipt signed by Dr. Hynek was obtained for the UFO case file.
- b. Dr. Hynek will discuss the matter with Dr. Whipple who is now in Spain on IGY matters, and with Dr. Gerald Hawkins, British astrophysicist, now with the observatory in Cambridge. Dr. Whipple is considered the foremost authority on radio echces and other radio-radar aspects of astronomical bodies in the world. With Dr. Hawkins participating as an interested party (the unusual UFO sighting being observed over England), the conference should produce something of note. This conference arranged by Dr. Hynek will be at no expense to USAF.

GEORGE T. GREGORY

Captain, USAF

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111-1-56 DATE OF THE OF METIDE 13 Angust 1956 England DATE OF COLLECTION Sai Starts (El sapileable 27 Mignat 1956 Slat Highter Bosber Hing CAPETLED'CONFLET ATT W BEFORT PREPAR NO . OF P. AS 31 August 1956 Captain adward L Bols EVALUATION HAME OF TRECHIPPION OF SOURCE ACTIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON (DRIES) USAF Personnal, Bentwaters, England B-3 MESTELMES (EACH SUBJECT, provious reports, atc., as applicable)

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(Unclassified) Unddentified Flying Objects heporting (UFOB)

SUMMASS. There summery which highlights the entires of nerestative report Degen nerestive test on AF Form 1120 unters come to tutty stated on AF Form III List inclusures, including number of copies;

Between 21202 and 2220Z, 13 August 1956, Unidentified Flying Objects were. reported observed visually and by ground electronic means by USAF personnel stationed at RAF Station Bentusters, England.

host significent are the reports of three courses of UPCBS tracked on the Bentwaters GCA heder, These UF Bo tles courses as follows: 1 group of 12 to 15 WIOSS FRUM a point 8 miles SW of Bentesters to appreximately 40-45 miles ME of Denivaters at an estimated speed of 80 to 125 miles per hours a single true was trocked by the Bentsaters CCA from approximately 25 miles in of Musitwatters to symmetaly 15 miles No of Bertsaters at a speed estimated at more than 4,000 tiles per hour; a third UFCB was rejerted as tracked by the Bentwature GOA from approximately 30 molles E. of bentweters flying a westerly common to about ju miles west of heatweters at an exceptionally bigh speads

The LGA Uperators making these ranar sightings were of the epinion that malfunestions of the and aquipment old not cause these rader sightings. T

Christy E. Bif & CHVILES E BLIEF

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On 27 August 1956 the following information concerning subject Unidontifical Plying Objects was received from 5/3gt Control Towar Shife ist, 1264th AMOS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England.

indicated that his attention was first called to the object by the central and unusual color. We was also aware that the Centrators GGA was centified Mlying Objects by radar at this time. Sgt described spherical and the size of a pin-beed held at arms longth. We sighted ject which was described as amber color when first observed later built belief white. No discarnable details or features were observed and me is the object was deted. Byt wright sighted the object from the Centratory was between 2120% and 2120%, 13 tagest 1956. We indicated that the object was in sight for approximately one hour and lay which the scuth sast. The object was in sight for approximately one hour and lay which these it intermittently disappeared and respectively 40 above the borison in south seaterly direction. Light continues during sighting draw to next, but the of this conservation.

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ladded that another TVOS was eighted on the CCA redar at about 22002, 13 August 1956, This object was tracked on the reter sores for apprentantion ly 16 seconds. Course of the object being tracked was from about 30 miles east of Beattaters to approximately 25 miles west of this station. Speed of this safest was estimated to be in excess of 4000 miles per hour, all radar returns appreciant cornell on the scope for this object except for the last return which assensed slightly weaker than the rest. Sgt and explained that object suddenly disappeared off the radar screen by rapidly moving out of the Ots radiation patheone Light conditions were night. Weather was clear with good visibility and light Winds.

#### 1/20 Yactara.

The following information pertaining to an Unidentified Flying Colest sighted slectronically on the Sentwaters SCA at 21302, 13 August 1956 was Sabustains by a 2C OCA Operator, 126kth AsCS Squadron, Ray Station Bei twaters, England.

inclusion that he tracked one Unicontified Flying Object on ter bears the server for approximately 30 seconds it 21302, 13 August 19814. The line of the Bull shee plaked by was that of a normal hirograft targets for Billy distributed in older and intensity by the renisbang point before excaming the antine rader serain.

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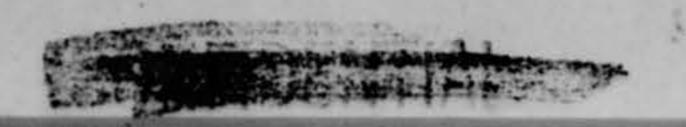
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SUBJECT: (C) Evaluation of Lakenheath Reports (Cont)

UFO society's and other "publicity artists" would make of such an incident. It is, therefore, of great importance that further information on the technical aspects of the original observations be obtained, without loss of time from the original observers.

> Dr. J. Allen Hynek Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory USAF UFO Scientist-Consultant 17 October 1956

1. Charles Africa





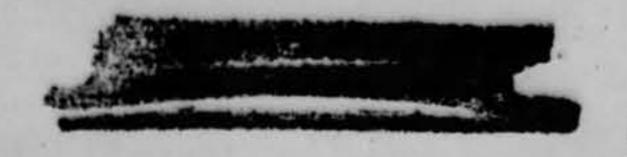
U. L. Soffield

#### SUBJECT: (C) Evaluation of Lakenheath Reports (Cont)

- 6. Meteors, however, as pointed out by Capt Gregory, can lead to radar returns because of the ionization of the gases in their trail. Accordingly, it would be extremely important to know whether the Bentwaters and Lakenheath radars have ever in the past observed meteors on their scopes and, if so, how such returns differ from the blips reported here.
- 7. Dr. Whipple and the writer discussed the Lakenheath incident at length and Dr. Whipple pointed out immediately the statement that "radars reported these facts to occur at later hours than the ground observers". This statement needs clarification inasmuch as it contradicts other portions of the report which indicate that at least at certain times visual and radar sightings were simultaneously.
- 8. Dr. Whipple stated that as far as the report at hand is concerned, no obvious physical solution is suggested. He deplored the inadequacy of the typical UFO report as a scientific document. He further stated that the nature of such reports is not likely to change and urged that if the Air Force was serious in its attempts to resolve this problem, both scientifically and in the public mind, that the Air Force do more than continue its passive investigational attitudes. He suggested that, as in any scientific procedure, facts are the raw material from which one must work and that in general the investigator in any particular case must assume an active roll in the obtaining of scientific data. In short, Dr. whipple asked the writer whether the Air Force had ever considered or was now considering the possibility of initiating, for a limited time, an actual sky patrol by photographic and visual means or precisely those areas from which the maximum UFO reports originate. The writer responded that this had indeed been suggested in the past but that because of considerations of expenses and of possible public misinterpretation, it was abandoned.
- 9. Dr. Whipple urged that a more modest proposal of the same general type be considered at this time. For instance, an area from which numerous reports have come in might be patrolled by a dozen or so "fish eye" cameras, operating automatically, which would give a total record of all bright moving objects at night within a given area or sector. A simple timing device would suffice to yield the angular rate of objects motion so that fire balls (bright meteors) could be distinguished from airplanes and from other astronomical objects.
- 10. The present writer submits that it might be of considerable, potential use to the Air Force to be able to state, at some future time, that a careful patrol of an area "rich in UFO reports" had been patrolled and nothing of a mysterious character photographed. This would be especially true if, during the time of patrol, UFO reports from untrained observers continued to come in from that area.
- 11. The Lakenheath report could constitute a source of embarrassment to the Air Force, and should the facts, as so far reported, get into the public domain, it is not necessary to point out what excellent use the several dozen







MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: (C) Evaluation of Lakenheath Reports

- l. The original Lakenheath reports and the preliminary evaluations made by ATIC were submitted to the undersigned for examination, evaluation and comment. Writer requested permission to discuss these with Dr. F. L. Whipple, Harvard University, and director of Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory, in view of the fact that sightings occurred at the time of Perseid meteors and Dr. Whipple is a world-recognized authority on meteors. Following comments will accordingly be invited to cover the three points separately.
- 2. It is to be regretted that so unusual a sighting report did not contain more factual material on which to base an evaluation. The Lakenheath report is one of the more unusual UFO reports involving electronic and visual observations and subsequent pursuit by fighter plane. Yet, report does not state whether it was definitely established that visual and electronic sightings referred to same object or even if they occurred precisely simultaneously. Further, report does not give exact weather information which might enable one to charge weather conditions, with any precision relative to "anomalous propagation" such as frequently occurs with radars.
- 3. It would be of extreme value to have independent statements from the various observers both at Bentwaters and Lakenheath. Report states that observers were traffic controllers and intelligence specialists. An analyst would be greatly aided by having independent statements from such highly trained observers as the original report indicates the observers were.
- 4. The implication of the original report is that the objects were sighted simultaneously by ground-visual, air-electronic and ground-electronic means. Yet, report nowhere states stellar magnitude of visual sightings or nature of radar blips. Angular rate of motion of objects is likewise not included.
- Gregory covers the case as well as it possibly could, under the circumstances. The present writer, upon more detailed examination of the report, and accepting the implications of the original report in the absence of specific statements, is led to differ somewhat from preliminary report. It seems highly unlikely, for instance, that the Perseid meteors could have been the cause of the sightings, especially in view of the statement of observers that shooting stars were exceptionally numerous that evening, thus implying that they were able to distinguish the two phenomena. Further, if new credence can be given to the maneuver of the objects as sighted visually and by radar, the meteor hypothesis must be ruled out.

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO UNCLASSIFIED, EFFECTIVE 15 MARCH 1968, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AFR 205-1, PARA 2-176 (11), BY MAJ HECTOR QUINTANILLA, JEST



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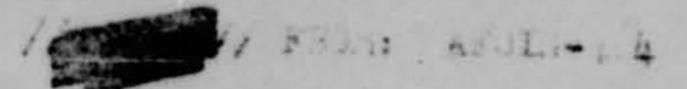
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L hour, and moved in a SE. South direction. This coincided with the general location, elevation and movement of Mars for the one hour period in question. (NOTE: Mars, bright and red, was making the closest approach to the Earth in 32 years.) Visual Airborne: The two AF pilots who were vectored to search the area, remained aloft for 45 minutes. Both stated that a very bright star was observed near the horizon to the East, which, quoting these pilots "could be mistaken for a UFO by visual observers." Astronomical: Of considerable significance is the fact that an annual meteoric shower, the Perseids, was in prominence at that time (11-13 August). The first report (TT-485) states conclusively that ground observers reported that there was an unusual amount of shooting stars in the sky at that time. This undoubted y accounts for some of the statements of ground observers that (quota) .. objects traveled at terrific speeds, stopping, and then changing course immediately ....." Astro-Electronic: The part that meteoric showers may have contributed to the signtings reported for these periods cannot be determined conclusively. However, meteors can produce radar returns because of the lumination of their gaseous trail, which "trace" on radarscower.

CONCLUSION: On the basis of the above, and the limited data provided, there is no compelling reason to conclude that the radar UFO sightings were other than the result of anomalous propagation, which coincided with visual observations during this period. The landvertant attempt to relate all the observations is not comidered valid.

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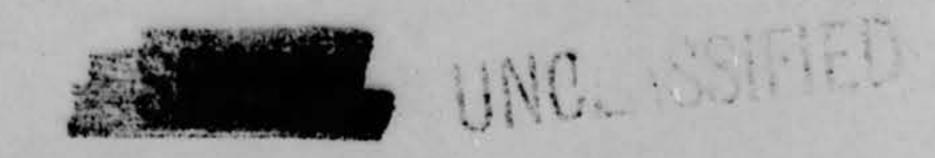
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SUBJECT: Report for Analysis - UFO Reports from CINCUSAFE, Wiesbaden and

Lakeheath, England

TO: AFOIN-4E4

Attn: Capt. Gregory

FROM: AFOIN-4E1

DATE 31 Aug 56 COMMENT No. 2 AFOIN-4Ela/Sr.Bryant/pm/72131

1. From the incomplete information submitted, it is impossible to make a definite determination of the sources of these sightings. Certain facts which are available, however, do tend to indicate that the targets were due to weather conditions. For example, the fact that a number of blips appeared and disappeared intermittently are characteristic of weather returns on radar; this characteristic frequently leads to a mistaken observation that one target has moved at tremendous speed, where in reality one has faded out or disappeared and another appeared at a different location on the scope. This also explains the erratic movement of the supposed target. Another characteristic of weather returns is the disappearance of all the targets in question at about the same time. This is due to rapid atmospheric changes wherein conditions change from favorable for anomalous propagation to normal conditions.

- 2. The fact that the visual and radar sightings were not simultaneous tends to preclude the possibility of the targets being material targets.
- 3. A more thorough analysis of these UFO sightings would have been possible if more complete information were available. Pertinent data which is accessary for such analysis includes scope photographs, weather information indicating presence or lack of temperature inversion, moisture lapse data, and an accurate tabulation of related times and places of sightings (as between visual and electronic sightings). This is not intended to infer negligence or lack of capability of reporting personnel; such oversights or omistions are natural during such times, and data of this type may not be available oven if considered.

Incls 5 Incls w/d-1 - 5 GORDON C: HOFFMAN Colonel, USAF AFOIN-4El

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO UNCLASSIFIED, EFFECTIVE 15 MARCH 1966, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF AFR 205-1, PARA 2-176(ii), BY Maj Hector Quintanilla, Joseph Guintanilla, Jose





District: (U) Fermine byer England - Larton Li-en about 1935

the following information was derived after discussion with deptain Gregory on 14 August 1936 concerning the possibility of meteoric showers over angland being mistaken for probably unidentified thying objects:

a. The Perseids are prominent and apparently could be quita spectacular over England.

b. The ferseids are at their visual peak between the 11th

to cross over at large angles to other meteors.

d. It is possible that individual netoor trails configed gases) may trace on redar acopes.

e. Although only limited information is given me, these meteors could be an explanation to make of the signings observed over lakenhouth and protecters.

L. V. Robinson

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- 2. Reference attached teletype mansage from England. It appears that the ELC Commander and an effort to investigate the phenomena through all posible sources; ground observers, rader and direrest intercept.
  - 3. Substantiully the same sighting is reported by CIRCUSAFE.
- i. The many variables and somewhat conflicting data make it a little difficult to form on immediate conclusion from this side of the Atlantic.
- 5. Although maneuvers not cheracteristic of single meteors are dese origed, it is of inserest to inform your office that the Perseis ( a yearly asteoric shower that appears from 11-19 august) is now in prominence in what latitude.
- 6. It is the opinion of the office the to Unit Gammander in questim will urdowbiedly take further investigation in action to remaive the patter or arrive of com fire conduction.
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REPORT NR.: IR-1-56

EXTRACT "A"

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ORIGINATING AGENCY: 81st Fighter Bomber Wing, England

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 8/31/56

ATIC NR. 293634 AF NR. 1025624

REFERENCES

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) Unidentified Flying Objects Reporting (UFOB)

HETRIEVAL INFO: 4E41/1 - England/-----/UFOB/-----

Most significant are the reports of three courses of UFOBS tracked on the Bentwaters GCA Radar. These UFOBS flew courses as follows: 1 group of 12 to 15 UFOBS FROM a point of miles SW of Bentwaters to approximately 40-45 miles NE of Bentwaters at an estimated speed of 80 to 125 miles per hour; a single UFOB was tracked by the Bentwaters GCA from approximately 25 miles SE of Bentwaters to approximately 15 miles No of Bentwaters at a speed estimated at more than 4,000 miles per hour; a third UFOB was reported as tracked by the Bentwaters GCA from approximately 30 miles E. of Bentwaters flying a westerly course to about 30 miles west of Bentwaters at an exceptionally high speed.

The GCA Operators making these radar sightings were of the opinion that malfunctions of the GCA Equipment did not cause these radar sightings.

The following information was obtained from USAF personnel assigned to HAF Station, Bentwaters, England concerning visual and radar sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects in the vicinity of their assigned station during the period 2120Z to 2220Z, 13 August 1956. the reliability of all the following sources of information is estimated to be usually reliable.

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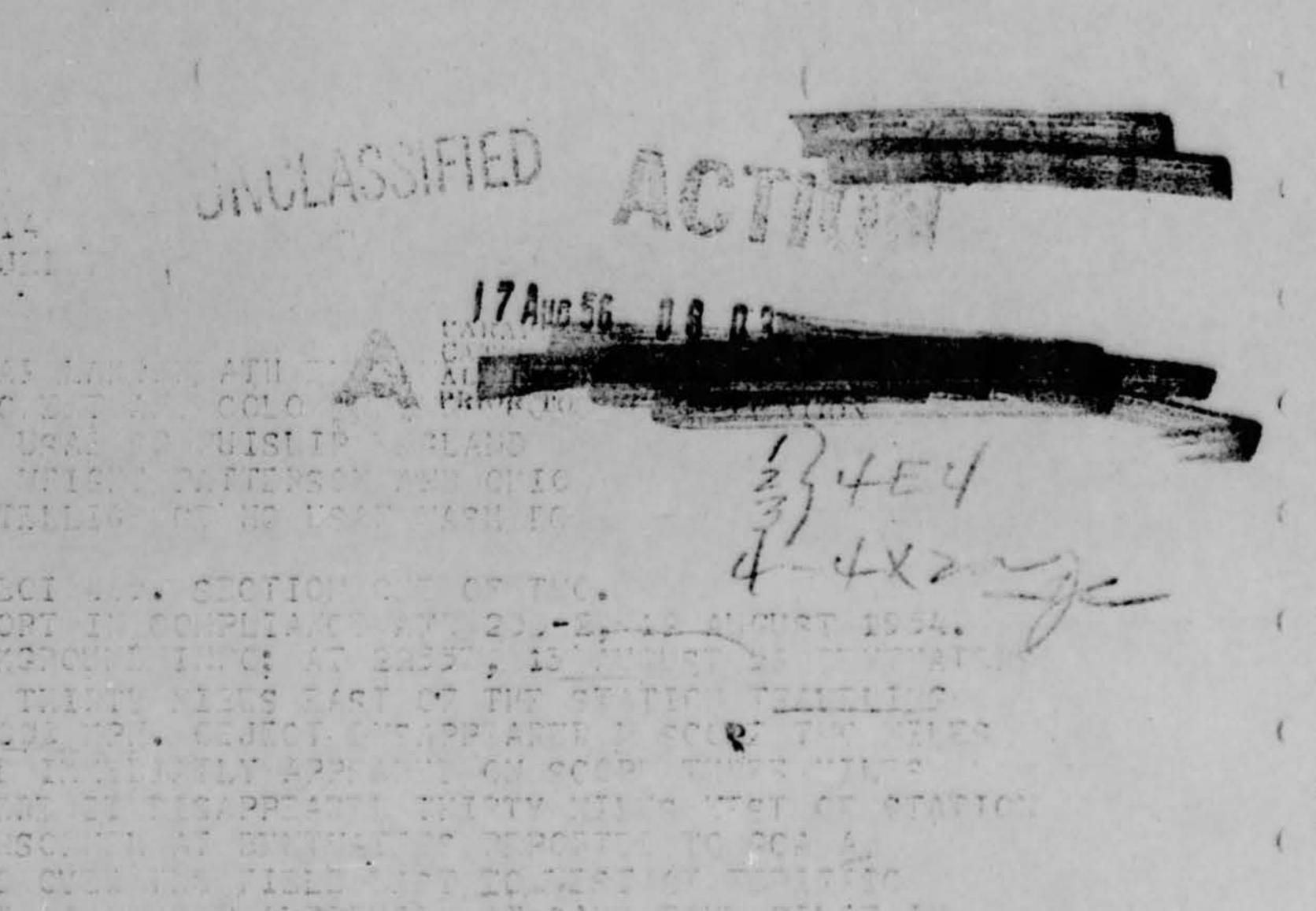
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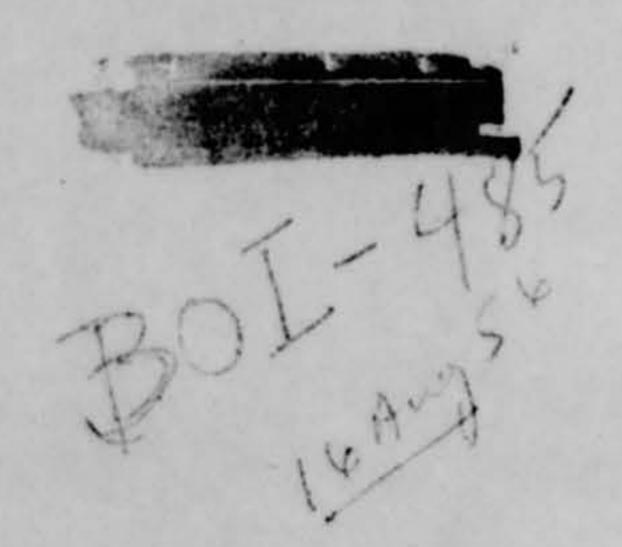
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IR-1-56 EPORT NR.:

EXTRACT "A"

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S/Sgt

293634 ATIC NR. 1025624 AF NR.

On 27 August 1956 the following information concerning subject Unidentified Flying Control Tower Shift Chief, 1264th AAGS Objects was received from S/Sgt quadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, England.

indicated that his attention was first called to the object by its position, size and unusual color. He was also aware that the Bentwaters GCA was tracking Unidentified Flying Objects by radar at this time. Sgt size of a pin-head held at arms length. He sighted only one object which was described as amber color when first observed later changing to bluish-white. No discernable details or features were observed and no sound from the object was noted. Sgt wright sighted the object from the Bentwaters Control Lower visually with the aid of 7 % 50 power binoculars. Time of his sighting was batween 2120Z and 2220Z, 13 August 1956. He indicated that the object was first observed at about 109 elevation toward the south east. The object was in sight for approximately one hour during which time it intermittently disappeared and reappeared. At the time of the object's disappearance, it was located approximately (h) above the horizon in (south south-easterly direction. Light conditions during sighting; flusk to night. Sgt indicated that the sky was clear with unlimited visibility during the time of this smeal evaluation in I my make I is glass at the training of the observation.

for the telling the war execute televations for the horas - womenty , GOA Operator, 1264th AACS Squadron, RAF Station Bentwaters, . angland reported the following information relative to subject Unidentified Flying Objects. THE FORM ATSA (IN CASE SHEET AND THAT PROPERTY ARE SEP SS & AF-WE-0-29 BECLASSIFIED

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REPORT NR.: IR-1-56

293634 ATIC NR. stated that 12 to 15 unidentified objects were tracked AF NR. 1025624 by the Bentwaters GCA (AN-MPN-11A) between 2130Z and 2155Z, 13 August 1956. This group was picked up approximately 8 miles southwest of HAF Station Bentwaters and were tracked on the radar scope clearly until the objects were approximately 14 miles northeast of Bentwaters. At the latter point on the course of these objects, they faded considerably on the radar scope. However, the 12 to 15 objects were tracked to a point about 10 miles N.E. of Bentwaters. At the approximate 40 mile range individual objects in this group appeared to converge into one very large object which appeared to be several times larger than a B-36 sircraft due to the size of the Blip on the radar shope. At the time that the individual objects seemed to converge into one large object, the large object appeared to remain stationary for 10 to 15 minutes. The large object then moved N.E. approximately 5 or 5 miles then stopped its movement for 3 to 5 minutes then moved north disappearing off the radar scope.

stated that the 12 to 15 unidentified objects were preceded by 3 objects which were in a triangular formation with an estimated 1000 feet separating each object in this formation. The other objects were scattered behind the lead formation of 3 at irregular intervals with the whole group simultaneously covering a 6 to 7 mile area. Prior to consolidation into one object 40 miles N.E. of Bentwaters. Course flown by this group of objects had alight deviations from S.w. to N.E.

Sgt added that these objects appeared as normal targets on the GCA scope and that normal checks made to determine possible malfunction of the GCA radar failed to indicate anything was technically wrong. Sgt satimated that the unidentified objects in this

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PAGE 3 OF 6

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group moved at the rate of between 80 and 125 miles per hour. He computed this speed by using the range margins on the GCA scope.

AFIR. 293634 AFIR. 1025624 REFERENCES

August 1956. This object was tracked on the radar screen for approximately 16 seconds. Course of the object being tracked was from about 30 miles east of Bentwaters to approximately 25 miles west of this station. Speed of this object was estimated to be in excess of 4000 miles per hour. All radar returns appeared normal on the scope for this object except for the last return which seemed slightly weaker than the rest. Sgt explained that object suddenly disappeared off the radar screen by rapidly moving out of the GCA radiation pattern. Light conditions were might, weather was clear with good visibility and light winds.

A/20 Vaccare. (2:5- Z)

Airman indicated that he tracked one Unidentified Flying Object on the Sentwaters GCA screen for approximately 30 seconds at 2130%, 19 August 1956. The size of the plug when picked up was that of a normal aircraft target. The Blip diminished in size and intensity to the vanishing point before crossing the entire radar screen.

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PAGE 4 OF 6

DEPORT .NR.: LH-1-56

EXTRACT "A"

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The unidentified flying object was picked up at an estimated
25 to 30 miles east south-east of Bentwaters and flew a constant
course of 295° to the vanishing point on the scope which was 15 to 20 miles west north-west
of Bentwaters at an undetermined altitude. Airman Vaccare estimated the speed of this object
to be in the vicinity of 4000 miles per hour. This speed was calculated by comparing the
speed of the object on the GCA scope with speeds that the operator is familiar with on the
electronic simulator. A/2C Vaccare alded that some idea of the speed of the object could be
computed from the fact that each time the GCA antenna completed a revolution the Blip from
this object moved 4 to 5 miles on the radar screen. The GCA antenna completes a revolution
once every two seconds. The weather was reported as clear with unlimited visibility.

#### Lts Metz and howe.

GS FORM ATSAUL NOW SET AUDITS edge ATT TO TECHNIATE TELESTER AT

on 30 August 1956 the following information was received from 1st Lt

and 1st Lt

concerning their aerial search for subject unidentified flying
objects. Lts

and

are pilots assigned to the 312th Fighter Interceptor Equation,
Beatwaters, ingland. The above named officers indicated that they were returning to Bentwaters from a 1-33 flight about 21302, 13 August 19,6. At this time they were vectored to
the north - east of Bentwaters to search for unidentified flying objects which were being
tracked by the Bestwaters GCA. Lts. end state! that they searched the areas to the
north-east, east, and south-east of Bentwaters for approximately 45 minutes. Altitude of
flight was between 2000 and 5000 feet. Results of this serial search were negative. Both
officers reported that they observed a bright star on the horizon to the east of Bentwaters
which might have been mistaken for an Unidentified Flying Object by the visual observer.

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293634 ATIC NR. It Rowe also stated that a flashing beacon was flashing through a low 1025624 haze along the east coast of England from the vicinity of the village REPERENCES of Orford. seather Feport from the Bentwaters weather detachment for the period 2100Z to 2200Z, 13 August 1956 for the Bentwaters area follows: winds: Surface - Direction 2300, velocity 5 to 10 knots. 6000 ft - Lirection 260°, velocity 30 knots. 10,000 ft - Direction 2600, velocity ho knots. 16,000 ft - Direction 260°, volocity 35 knots. 20.000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 70 knots. 30,000 ft - Direction 2600, velocity 90 knots. 50,000 ft - Direction 260°, velocity 10 knots. ceilings 25,000 ft Visibility: 9 miles No thunderstorms were located in the area of the sightings. Several siroraft were in the Bentwaters area at the time of these sightings but these could not have been mistaken for the Unidentified Flying Objects. No physical evidence of the sightings is available. STICLED BM 475A (I NOTE SEE SECRETARISED ATIVE THAT I DECEMBER 35 SOM PAGE 6 CT 6

EXTRACT "A"

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